are doing a commedable job in the fight against terrorism and that as many as 689 policemen have sacrificed their lives in terrorist violence for upholding the integrity of the Country and security of the State.

Ruling by a WTO panel against India

*52. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lost a major textile dispute vis-a-vis the United States at the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the ruling by a WTO panel, upholding the US rules to determine the country of origin of textile and apparel products, could affect India's bid for increased textile exports to the US;

(c) if so, to what extent India has suffered as a result thereof; and

(d) whether India has again appealed against the panel's ruling?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHANAWAJ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The panel established by the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) has decided against India in the case titled "United States-Rules of Origin for Textiles and Apparel Products". The unilateral changes in the US Rules of Origin are applicable from 1996 and, therefore, there are no new effects from the panel ruling. At that time, the changes did affect India's grey cotton fabrics exports to countries such as Sri Lanka which used them for processing and export to US.

(d) The Government has decided not to appeal against the DSB panel ruling.

Reservations for Economically poor among forward Castes in Government Jobs

*53. SHRI AIMA DUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU):
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan have decided to give 14 per

cent reservation in Government jobs to the economically poor among the forward castes and has requested the Central Government to make suitable amendments in the Constitution therefor;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action contemplated by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan have recommended to Central Government to provide for reservation in Government jobs on economic criteria upto a limit of 14% to forward castes keeping intact the existing 49% reservation to the communities belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes.The State Government have requested the Central Government to initiate a Constitutional amendment to give effect to the principle of servation based on economic criteria since the prevailing limit of 50% reservation has been fixed by Supreme Court of India in Indira Sawhney's case. The State Government has also suggested to the Central Government to consider the issue at the national level and take a policy decision after consulting various State Government so that reservation on economic criteria can be extended to the economically weaker sections of society.

(c) In consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, the Government have initiated action for setting up a Commission to study and recommend reservation for the economically backward classes not covered by the present reservation policy.

Supply of Coal to Thermal Power Plants in Madhya Pradesh

†*54. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal provided to the thermal power plants per month in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.